Meeting

INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE

<u>Place</u>

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

Date/Time

Friday April 16, 2021 10:30-11:30 AM

Speakers/Guests

There was no guest speaker for this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Todd Hughes, General Counsel, Alabama Department of Senior Services.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by John Craft to approve minutes from the February 5, 2020, meeting upon adding Tonia Bell's name to the list of attendees. The motion was seconded by Christy DeGraffenried and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Todd Hughes stated that the Protocol for Law Enforcement Response to the Victims of Elder Abuse has been renamed the Elder Abuse Resource Guide.

Bill Fuller suggested that the council advocate for federal funding which would help law enforcement implement the protocols stated in the Elder Abuse Resource Guide.

A motion was made by Bill Fuller to approve the Elder Abuse Resource Guide. The motion was seconded by Susan Segrest and approved unanimously.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Legislative & Advocacy Committee

Felicia Brooks stated that Act 20-21-77, Section 38-9F-6 has been signed by the Governor. This Act supports the victim's confidentiality by assuring that sensitive information such as address and phone number are redacted from public disclosure.

Also, Act 20-21-78, Elderly and Vulnerable Adult Financial Protection Act of 2021, has been signed by the Governor. This Act helps to protect the financial assets of anyone who is (1) 65 years or older or (2) 18 years or older but unable to handle their own affairs due to mental disability.

The following bills have not passed yet but are showing great potential:

• Senate Bill 366 and House Bill 603 which deal with guardianship and conservatorship have not passed yet but are showing signs of being successful.

• Senate Bill 104 and House Bill 350 eliminates the provision that a sheriff's office employee be appointed as a general guardian or conservator of the state of a protected person unless the county sheriff consents to the appointment in writing.

Community & Professional Outreach Committee

Susan Segrest stated that the committee is in the process of mailing out Elder Protection toolkits to the AAAs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

John Craft commented on the guardianship bills and he also questioned new language used in the bill. Felecia Brooks assured that the final language is still being worked out.

Bill Fuller introduced Nancy Anderson of Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) to the group.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made by John Craft at 11:00 AM

The next meeting is scheduled for June 25th at 10:30 AM.